

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554

Concerning:
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking entitled
Restoring Internet Freedom
WC Docket No. 17-108

The Restoring Internet Freedom rule is a contradiction in terms. The only thing this proposed rule would restore is the ability for the powerful to restrict the freedom of the less powerful. I find this to be morally objectionable and patently un-American. Empowering influential groups and individuals to restrict, restrain, and censor competing views and business models is the sort of thing that happens in an oligarchic dictatorship or behind the great firewall of China.

The introduction of the proposed rule change mentions the “light regulatory approach” of the FCC, but the same document fails utterly to cover the context of the Supreme Court decisions which provoked the rule change. Furthermore, the background information section gives only the lightest covering of the Supreme Court’s decision and how they impacted the FCC’s ability to protect consumers from corporate broadband throttling.

For the entirety of the Internet’s explosive growth and expansion, Internet Service Providers (ISPs) were operating under pseudo common carrier rules. These rules were deemed unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, and the FCC was then forced to put new rules into place to protect consumers from ISP traffic interference. It is these rules the new commissioner proposes to eliminate.

Like a litany of other deceptively named rules, the proposed Restoring Internet Freedom rule corrupts freedom and restores the ability of telecommunications giants to pick and choose the winners of the internet. Small businesses could be throttled into non-existence for daring any attempt to compete with the likes of Comcast or Verizon.

In the past few years, under the rules which are supposedly stifling innovation, small businesses have exploded all over the internet. The Restoring Internet Freedom rule threatens the ability of these small businesses to survive and will empower massively unpopular telecommunications companies to restrict the freedom of citizens through stifling avenues of dissent.

I believe the internet is important to the present economy and vital to the future economy of the United States. The economic shifts caused by the current freedom on the internet is a threat to the established commercial elite. In response, FCC Chairman Ajit Pai has proposed rules that will empower economic elites to destroy competition under the auspices of restoring internet freedom.